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17. 30 hrs.

Title:On a request made by Shri Avinash Rai Khanna and agreed to by the Hon'ble Speaker, the Half-an-Hour Discussion on points arising out of the answer given by the Minister of External Affairs on 09-05-2007 to Starred Question No. 487 regarding Non-Issuance of Visas and Passports to Indians Living Abroad was postponed.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Regarding Half-an-hour discussion, I have to inform the House that Shri Avinash Rai Khanna has requested the hon. Speaker to postpone the Half-an-hour discussion and the hon. Speaker has agreed to his request. So, if the House agrees, we will take up the 'Zero Hour'

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So, we will take up the 'Zero Hour'. Before that, I would like to make a suggestion from the Chair. Private Members' Business is very important. Unfortunately, we are taking up this business on Friday. That is the position in almost all the Houses; State Assemblies and Parliament. We will have to consider advancing it to Wednesday because on Friday all the Members will be leaving.

I was watching the TV and I found all the benches empty and only the Minister and the Chairman were shown on the TV. It is none of the fault of the channel people. We are discussing the Constitution (Amendment) Bill. I will call it as a kind of trick on the Constitution. The constitutional amendment requires a specific and not an ordinary quorum. For passing the Constitution (Amendment) Bill there is a specific quorum mentioned in the Constitution. Without any of these provisions being followed, we are discussing this Constitution (Amendment) Bill to the convenience of the Private Members. This is the position. The entire country is watching it on TV.

Earlier there was no such live telecast. Now live telecast is there. The hon. Minister, the Chair and only a few Members are present. I was watching that on the TV and it is when we are discussing a Constitution (Amendment) Bill. I can understand it when an ordinary Bill is being discussed but we are discussing the Constitution (Amendment) Bill when at least semblance of Quorum should be there. The entire nation is watching that the House is discussing the Constitution (Amendment) Bill with a few people present. On watching the TV one could see that only a few people are present in the House. I am sorry.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Sir, the general tendency is a Member remains present when he has to speak. You can see a number of Members present now because they all have come to speak in the 'Zero Hour'....(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Earlier, the live telecast was not there. I do not blame the channel people. It is not their fault. We are at fault. We do not have enough Members assembled here. They can show the Members on TV only when hon. Members are occupying their seats. When the House is more or lessempty what can the TV people do?

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Sir, let us continue with the 'Zero Hour'.

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